

Changes in the law
took effect January 1, 2006



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The rules have changed for
**Teenagers and
Driver Licenses**

The Law

In 1997, the first provisional driver license (PDL) program, the Brady-Jared Teen Driver Safety Act, was established by the California Legislature. It represented a great change to teen driving laws, primarily imposing limitations on previously unrestricted teenage drivers. The PDL program imposed parameters for when and with whom a teen could drive.

JANUARY 2006 BROUGHT A NEW LAW STRENGTHENING THE PDL PROGRAM FOR TEEN DRIVERS

The new law requires additional supervised driving practice and restricts teen driving hours and the transportation of passengers. The law was enacted to save lives. Studies indicate that 16-year-old drivers are involved in injury and fatality accidents 3 ½ times more than all other California drivers. According to the CHP, in 2005 alone, 11,655 persons between the ages of 16 and 17 were injured and 139 were killed in collisions.

NEW PROVISIONAL DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

In your first 12 months behind the wheel, you must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian, licensed driver 25 or older, or a licensed / certified driving instructor when you are:

- TRANSPORTING passengers under 20 years old.
- DRIVING between 11 PM and 5 AM.

Before you can get your provisional driver license, you must have held an Instruction Permit for at least six months.

BREAK THE LAW? IT'S GOING TO COST YOU

Violations of the law will cost teenagers \$35 for the first offense, plus eight hours of community service, and \$50 for second and subsequent offenses, with 16 hours of community service.

Requirements

CHECKLIST

- COMPLETE driver education.
- PASS the written exam at your local DMV office.
- OBTAIN your Instruction Permit.
- COMPLETE behind-the-wheel training.
- PASS the behind-the-wheel test at your local DMV office.
- OBTAIN your Provisional Driver License.

To get your instruction permit, you must

- BE between ages 15 ½ and 18.
- HAVE completed or be enrolled in driver education and behind-the-wheel training.
- PROVIDE a birth certificate / legal presence document and your social security number.
- HAVE a parent’s or guardian’s signature.
- PASS an eye exam.
- PASS a written test on driving laws (if you fail, you must wait one week before taking it again).
- PAY a \$26 application fee.
- GIVE your thumbprint.
- HAVE your picture taken.

Restrictions

IF YOU HAVE AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO DRIVE A CAR, YOU

- MUST PRACTICE with a parent, guardian, other licensed driver 25 or older, or a licensed / certified driving instructor.
- MAY NOT drive alone.

IF YOU HAVE AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT TO DRIVE A MOPED OR MOTORCYCLE, YOU

- MAY NOT carry passengers.
- MUST drive during daylight only.
- MAY NOT drive on any freeway.

IN ADDITION, TO DRIVE MOPEDS OR MOTORCYCLES, YOU

- MUST BE at least 15 ½.
- MUST BRING proof you have finished motorcycle driver training.

NOTE: These requirements and restrictions are not valid until you start your behind-the-wheel training with an instructor or reach age 17 ½.

To Get Your Provisional Driver License, you must

- BE at least 16 years old.
- HAVE held an Instruction Permit for at least six months.
- COMPLETE driver education and behind-the-wheel driver training.
- HAVE the signature of your parent or guardian verifying that you have completed 50 hours of driving practice, 10 of which must have been at night.
- PASS the behind-the-wheel test at your local DMV office (if you fail, you must wait two weeks to take the test again).



Exceptions to PDL Restrictions

Exceptions are granted when reasonable transportation is not available and it is necessary for the minor to drive.

The minor MUST carry a note signed by the appropriate person explaining why the minor must drive and include the date when the necessity will end.

- MEDICAL NECESSITY: the note must be signed by your physician and must contain a diagnosis and probable end date.
- SCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES: the note must be signed by your school principal, dean, or his/her designee and must include a reason for the school or school-authorized activity and the date when the activity will end.
- EMPLOYMENT NECESSITY: the note must be signed by your employer and it must verify employment and the date employment will end.
- IMMEDIATE NEED OF FAMILY MEMBER: the note must be signed by your parent or legal guardian and it must include the reason and date the necessity will end.
- EMANCIPATED MINOR: no documentation is needed for this exemption. However, the minor must have already declared him/herself emancipated by completing a DMV form and by providing Proof of Financial Responsibility in lieu of the guarantor’s signatures when he or she applied for the instruction permit.